Salem Lutheran Church Council

January 23, 2025

We exist with God’s help, to provide Leadership for Salem Lutheran Church.

MSC=The motion was seconded and carried.

Call to Order

Members Present: Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Don Hales, Nate Van Risseghem, Sylvia Hoge, Julie Fritz,

Members Absent: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Sherri Godfrey, Jason Kempthorne, Alan Niemann, Tina Royer

Opening Prayer: Lynn Hansen provided the opening prayer

SOS announcement: None

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda, MSC

**Discussion questions for Chapter 1 of Unlocking Your Church's Invite Culture (not**

**more than 15 minutes)-MOVED TO FEBRUARY-** Books were distributed to members.

Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve November 26,2024 meeting minutes. MSC

Approval of Financials:

Mark Boike took the council through the end of year financials

* Envelop giving was under what was budgeted, Loose offerings received more than budgeted, restricted offering was under what was budgeted.
* Income for the building fund was over the annual budget.
* Overall, we had anticipated being $54,000 over budget but came in at only $30,000 over.

Motion to approve the December 2024 financial report. MSC

Pastor’s Report –

* Working on End of Year giving letter and Pastor’s annual report
* Lent worship planning:
	+ Crosby Ministerial – Noon Lent Worship, Salem on April 2
	+ Lent Rotation in evening – not enough pastors, exploring options
* Catching up on visits, creating a better schedule during the year
* Home Communion Visitors – final logistics for reporting
	+ Training and Commissioning Home Communion Visitors
* Excellent conversations with confirmation students, engaged
* Exploring Worship opportunity: creating accessible worship for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD)
* First Communion on Sunday, April 6 due to Maundy Thursday conflict.

Outreach Report – Mark

* $200,000 or so in Deerwood Bank getting no interest. Moving $100,000 to Brainerd Community Foundation to get more interest.
* Radio advertising stopped for now until closer to Spring and summer
* Facebook- always trying to increase views- Jake working on postings. Have increased to 38,000 views and an audience of 3000
* Jake is attending a series of management classes at CLC
* February round up going to Honduras trip

Committee Reports:

Capital Appeal -Sherri- $390,000 goal. $301,000 pledged 88 households- 40%. The second mailings went out last week. Waiting till February for the next meeting.

Columbarium – Don and Al- Annual meeting has not taken place yet

Facilities- Nate- Lights in Fellowship Hall done- 6 lights are a different kind of light and have not been changed and will not be unless people want them.

Faith Formation – Sylvia- Discussed Camp this summer. Before Covid we had day camp at our church. Camp staff are sent here, and we have kids come daily. Whitney is looking into the possibility of having the day camp this year. There was positive feedback on the Christmas program. The committee itself said they need to practice more next year.

Memorial – Don- Met January- Spent $176 to cover the final money owed for the church directory. Working with council on scholarships for kids to attend camp. Working with school counselors for high school scholarships. They appointed new leaders in the group.

Stewardship – Lynn- nothing to report

Technology – Julie- Trying to get a meeting set

Welcome – Tina- no report

Worship and Music – Julie-New room microphone. Tina will be working on a new Easter alter décor. Ash Wednesday is March 5. Looking at Lent worship at 6:30pm. Unknown if we will rotate or have all at our church

Unfinished Business

\* Ratify E-votes from 12/11 and 12/18/24

\*1. Due to a recent memorial donation, Aimee investigated our Memorial Account

#2530. Dating back to 2011, there are funds left over from specific purposes for

maintenance and special projects (refrigerator, organ repair, Lunch Bunch, lilies, etc.). It

also looks like a regular offering of $5,000 to Salem's ministry was placed here in 2021.

The total of these funds is $6,167.33.

a. A motion was made that we transfer unused and unrestricted funds from account #2530

into the general account, leaving the $300 that is reserved for 2 specific uses as noted

in the account.

b. MSC

\*2. Memorial Account #2500 is the account heading and has $30 outstanding from

2021 Easter lilies as well.

1. A motion was made that we transfer the $30 from #2500 into the general account.
2. MSC

\*3. A tax benefit to clergy is to designate a portion of my salary to housing

expenses. It is recorded officially in church council minutes should I ever be audited,

However, it does not need a vote. The following language will be added to the January

meeting minutes:

a. As reported on December 11, 2024, Pastor Amanda Kempthorne

designates $45,000 of her income as a housing allowance. This designation shall apply

to the calendar year 2025 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

4. Don presented the plan for Honduras and budget at the OGB meeting. From his

calculations, there will be a $5,500 need after income from designated funds and

registration fees. The team is planning two fundraisers: a January pancake feed

(possible date Jan 12) and February 14 Valentine's Dinner. Council needs to approve

any fundraising apart from regular offerings and capital campaigns.

1. A motion was made to approve both fundraisers
2. MSC.

Old Business:

Parents Night Off- The Saturday event went well. We should continue- one per quarter. Perhaps March. Lynn and Julie are willing to do it on a weeknight. Will decide soon.

Annual reports from committees - deadline date January 26. Grace is asking committees.

Year-end donations report for the Connection: Mark will contact Amy to see if we can get something by February connection

New Business:

Furnace repair- We have one bid. We are waiting for the second bid. Wait to hear on second bid before deciding. Bids include the cost to repair and cost to replace.

Lenten offering designation- Our Thanksgiving offering was supposed to go to Lutheran World Relief. But since Thanksgiving was at Cascade, our offering went to Cascade, and they gave the offering to the Food Shelf

A motion was made that we give our Lenten offering to the Lutheran World Relief Organization for disasters

MSC

Set Summer Worship Schedule

A motion was made for 9am for summer

MSC

Summerfest/Deerwood Days- We discussed several options at the retreat and tonight.

There was a motion to sell meatballs and leftse under our tents on Friday and Saturday in our parking lot (where Deerwood Bank Parks)

MSC

Mark and Don spoke to Sherri on the phone before the meeting since she was not going to be at this meeting (and she is the food person). Sherri said we should not have the pancake breakfast because the Legion has the same breakfast, and it is too difficult to have both pancakes and meatballs in the kitchen.

Members would like to discuss the pancake breakfast in more detail to see if we can still do it. There are other vendors that have the same items i.e. two hot dog vendors, two ice cream, etc. Mark will talk to the Legion/Terry Tischner to find out what the Legion serves for breakfast during Summerfest. Julie will talk to Sherri to see if there is some way to make both meatballs and pancakes since we do not have other items such as ice cream, hot dogs, etc.

We would do the silent auction if we can do the pancake breakfast/or something in the morning.

 Announcements:

Executive Team Meeting: Tuesday February 18, 3:00pm

Next Council Meeting: Thursday February 27, 6:30pm

A motion was made to adjourn at pm 7:57 MSC

Closed in the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Fritz